

Amendments to the Claims

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1. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing that involves a plurality of companies at different locations, the method comprising:
- developing, by a computer system, an electronic specification describing a product and a plurality of components thereof;
 - inducing the plurality of companies to manufacture the plurality of components, wherein the step of inducing the plurality of companies to manufacture the plurality of components includes forwarding the electronic specification to a specific company that is one of the plurality of companies;
 - inducing the specific company to build the product or a component thereof in accordance with a plurality of requirements in the electronic specification, wherein the component is one of the plurality of components;
 - the specific company building the product or the component thereof in accordance with the plurality of requirements in the electronic specification;
 - after the specific company building the product or component thereof, revising the electronic specification to include a late customer change;
 - after the specific company building the product or component thereof, testing the product or the component thereof;
 - upon testing the product or component thereof, creating an operability test result;
 - appending, by the computer system, the operability test result to the electronic specification, thereby creating an appended operability test result;
 - inducing the specific company to determine if the product or the component thereof is completed;
 - inducing the specific company to forward the electronic specification with the appended operability test result to another one of the plurality of companies; and
 - assembling the plurality of components to produce the product, which incorporates the late customer change.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the forwarding step includes the step of providing a central server to centralize the forwarding step.

3. (original) The method of claim 2 including the further step of providing a bill of materials for the components and the product at the time the electronic specification is developed.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 including the further step of periodically

3

comparing the bill of materials to the electronic specification to verify the accuracy of both.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 including the further step of saving at least one updated version of the electronic specification.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 including the further step of comparing the updated version of the electronic specification with an electronic specification having appended test results.

7. (canceled) .

8. (original) The method of claim 7 including the further step of comparing the revised updated version of the electronic specification with an electronic specification having appended test results; wherein the comparing step includes the steps of determining and implementing late customer changes to the electronic specification in the product or components.

Claims 9 – 59 (canceled)